AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 11, wherein the base oil is a natural or synthetic oil.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 11, wherein the at least one lubricating oil additive is selected from the group consisting of antioxidants, anti-wear agents, detergents, rust inhibitors, dehazing agents, demulsifying agents, metal deactivating agents, friction modifiers, pour point depressants, antifoaming agents, co-solvents, package compatibilisers, corrosion-inhibitors, ashless dispersants, dyes, extreme pressure agents and mixtures thereof.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 11, wherein the at least one lubricating oil additive is selected from the group consisting of antioxidants, detergents, ashless dispersants and mixtures thereof.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 11, wherein the substrate is a transparent material.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of determining the amount of deposits formed on the transparent substrate comprises determining the opacity or light scattering of the sample and comparing the determined opacity or light scattering with the opacity or light scattering of a reference sample.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the opacity of the sample is determined by measuring the intensity of light passed through a sample.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the plurality of samples are in a linear array and are sequentially moved to a measuring station between a light source and a photocell for individually measuring the deposit formation of each sample.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A high throughput method for screening lubricating oil composition samples, under program control, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a plurality of different lubricating oil composition samples, each sample comprising (i) a major amount of at least one base oil of lubricating viscosity, and (ii) a minor amount of at least one lubricating oil additive;

(b) measuring deposit formation of each sample comprising heating a substrate to a first predetermined temperature and the sample to a second predetermined temperature, contacting the substrate with the sample and determining the amount of deposits formed on the substrate after a predetermined period of time to provide deposit formation data for each sample; and,

(c) outputting the results of step (b).

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the substrate is aluminum.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the first predetermined temperature is about 100°C to about 400°C and the second predetermined temperature is about 80°C to about 250°C.

14. (Previously Presented) A high throughput method for screening lubricating oil composition samples, under program control, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a plurality of different lubricating oil composition samples, each sample comprising (i) a major amount of at least one base oil of lubricating viscosity, and (ii) a minor amount of at least one lubricating oil additive;

(b) measuring deposit formation of each sample comprising heating one end of a substrate to a first predetermined temperature and the opposite end of the substrate to a second predetermined temperature, wherein the first predetermined temperature is different than the second predetermined temperature; contacting the substrate with the sample and determining the temperature at which deposits formed on the substrate to provide deposit formation data for each sample; and,

(c) outputting the results of step (b).

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 11, wherein a robotic assembly selectively retrieves the samples from an array of samples and individually positions the samples in a testing station for determination of the deposit formation.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said robotic assembly is controlled by a computer.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 11, wherein the step of outputting comprises storing the results of step (b) on a data carrier.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 11, further comprising the step of using the result of step (c) as a basis for obtaining a result of further calculations.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 11, wherein the at least one lubricating oil additive further comprises a diluent oil to form an additive concentrate.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 11, wherein the lubricating oil composition samples have a volume of no more than about 50 ml.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 11, wherein the lubricating oil composition samples have a volume of no more than about 20 ml.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 11, wherein the lubricating oil composition samples have a volume of no more than about 15 ml.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 11, wherein the lubricating oil composition samples have a volume of no more than about 10 ml.

24-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ process of claim [[24]] 14, wherein the base oil of lubricating viscosity is a natural or synthetic oil.

32. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ process of claim [[24]] 14, wherein the at least one lubricating oil additive is selected from the group consisting of antioxidants, anti-wear agents, detergents, rust inhibitors, dehazing agents, demulsifying agents, metal deactivating agents, friction modifiers, pour point depressants, antifoaming agents, co-solvents, package compatibilisers, corrosion-inhibitors, ashless dispersants, dyes, extreme pressure agents and mixtures thereof.

33. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ process of claim [[24]] 14, wherein the at least one lubricating oil additive is selected from the group consisting of antioxidants, detergents, ashless dispersants and mixtures thereof.

34-35. (Cancelled)